

In re Patent Application of
BURR, JR. ET AL.
Serial No. 09/995,969
Filed: NOVEMBER 28, 2001

REMARKS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the thorough examination of the present application and for identifying allowable subject matter in Claims 2-8, 10, 12-16, and 18-21. A number of minor typographical errors in the specification are being corrected.

The patentability of the rejected claims are discussed in greater detail below.

I. The Claimed Invention

Independent Claim 1, for example, is directed to a method of controlling the operation of a plurality of transceiver stations from a master site. The method includes (a) transmitting, from the master site to the transceiver stations, a general application information signal that is retransmitted by each of the transceiver stations. The method also includes (b) storing, in a respective transceiver station, a sequence of commands which, when invoked, cause the respective transceiver station to perform a respective sequence of actions, including the transmission of one or more additional specific application information signals, other than the general application information signal as received from the master site and retransmitted by the respective transceiver station, and wherein the respective sequence of actions of one transceiver station is not necessarily the same as, and can be expected to be different from the respective sequence of actions of another transceiver station of the plurality of transceiver stations. The method also includes

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(c) transmitting, from the master site to each of the transceiver stations, a prescribed command signal; and
(d) at each of the transceiver stations, receiving the prescribed command signal transmitted from the master site in step (c) and, in response thereto, invoking the respective sequence of commands stored in step (b), and thereby causing each respective transceiver station to perform a respective sequence of actions associated with the respective sequence of commands stored thereby.

Independent Claim 9 is directed to a store and forward communication system including a master site transmitter which is operative to transmit a general application information signal to a plurality of transceiver stations. The plurality of transceiver stations are operative to receive and retransmit the general application information signal. The master site is further operative to controllably transmit a prescribed command signal to each of the transceiver stations. A respective transceiver station containing a storage unit storing a sequence of commands which, when executed, cause the respective transceiver station to perform a respective sequence of actions, including the transmission of one or more additional specific application information signals, other than the general application information signal as received from the master site transmitter and retransmitted by the respective transceiver station. A respective sequence of actions of one transceiver station is not necessarily the same as, and can be expected to be different than, the respective sequence of actions of another transceiver station of the plurality of transceiver stations. Each of the transceiver stations includes a command signal

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processor, which is operative to access and execute a sequence of commands stored in the storage unit, in response to receipt of the prescribed command signal, and thereby cause the each respective transceiver station to perform a respective potentially locally unique sequence of actions associated with the accessed sequence of commands.

Independent Claim 17 is directed to a store and forward receiver for use with a respective rebroadcasting station of a multistation network having a master site transmitter which transmits a general application information signal to a plurality of rebroadcasting stations. The respective rebroadcasting station is operative to receive and retransmit the general application information signal. The store and forward receiver includes a demodulator, which is operative to demodulate a signal transmitted to the plurality of rebroadcast stations from the master site transmitter containing the general application information signal and a control channel. A rebroadcast signal transport path is coupled to the demodulator and is operative to coupled the general application information signal to rebroadcasting equipment of the respective rebroadcasting station for rebroadcast thereby. A command signal processor is coupled to the demodulator and the rebroadcast signal transport path, and which is operative, in response to receipt of a prescribed command in the control channel of the signal transmitted from the master site transmitter to the plurality of rebroadcasting stations, to access a sequence of commands stored in a storage unit therefore. The command signal processor also causes the execution of respective actions associated with the sequence

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of commands, including play back through the rebroadcast signal transport path of one or more auxiliary information files stored in the storage unit, interleaved with portions of the general application information signal being rebroadcast by the respective transceiver.

II. Claims 1, 9, 11, and 17 Are Patentable

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 9, 11, and 17 as unpatentable over the Corts et al. patent. The Corts et al. patent discloses a system for coordinating the transmission of supplemental data with a broadcast signal by a black box located at each broadcast station. The Corts et al. patent discloses:

"A multipurpose Internet appliance (or 'black box' as shown in the Figures), which resides within each individual radio station to perform a multitude of actions necessary for a successful datacast. The primary function of the black box is to prepare datacast elements in a manner that constitutes a datacast and then interface with an IBOC encoding device to dispense that datacast." (See paragraph [0096]).

The Corts et al. patent discloses a black box that communicates over the Internet with the central servers to receive supplemental broadcast data and instructions on when to broadcast the supplemental broadcast data to thereby create a datacast. Then, the black box determines, according to a traffic log for each broadcast station and the instructions received over the Internet from the central servers, an appropriate time slot to insert the datacast into the broadcast stream. Consequently, the Corts et al. patent discloses individual station control over the insertion of supplemental broadcast data into a broadcast signal.

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In contrast, independent Claim 1, for example, is directed to a method of controlling the operation of a plurality of transceiver stations from a master site. The method includes transmitting, from the master site to the transceiver stations, a general application information signal that is retransmitted by each of the transceiver stations. The method further includes transmitting, from the master site to each of the transceiver stations, a prescribed command signal. At each of the transceiver stations, receiving the prescribed command signal transmitted from the master site and, in response thereto, invoking the respective sequence of commands stored, and thereby causing each respective transceiver station to perform a respective sequence of actions associated with the respective sequence of commands stored thereby. In other words, the transceivers of the claimed invention are controlled remotely by the master site and not by a black box located within a local broadcast facility. Independent Claims 9 and 17 include similar recitations to independent Claim 1.

Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 9, and 17 are patentable. Dependent claim 11, that recites yet further distinguishing features of the invention, is also patentable and require no further discussion herein.

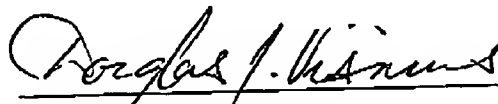
CONCLUSIONS

In view of the arguments presented above, it is submitted that all of the claims are patentable. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in due course. Should any minor informalities need to be addressed, the

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Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing correspondence has
been forwarded via facsimile number 703-872-9306 to the
Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-
1450 this 3rd day of December, 2004.

